



Press Release: for Immediate Issue

Contacts: Don Martinez 605-390-5215 or Jerry Wright 605-415-2788

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO GAME FISH & PARKS' OUTDOOR CAMPUS - WEST

AT RAPID CITY COUNCIL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 6:30-7:00 pm

C/SAC, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

*The purpose of the Rapid City Standing Committee on Sustainability is to encourage education, stewardship and policy leadership that will make our community a leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability.*

The Outdoor Campus - West has been selected as a recipient for the October, 2015 Rapid City Sustainability Award. This is an award that is presented for projects that contribute to the societal, environmental and economic viability of Rapid City.

The Outdoor Campus' mission is to provide education about outdoor skills, wildlife, conservation and management practices of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) to all ages in order to preserve our outdoor heritage. The Campus includes a main building with indoor and outdoor exhibits. Indoor features include a 4,600 gallon freshwater aquarium and wildlife models. The building also has class and meeting rooms where educational programs and events are held throughout the year. An outdoor pond provides an opportunity to try their class room skills at fishing and canoeing. Visitors can explore 32 acres of trails featuring wild edible and medicinal plants.

The Outdoor Campus - West has been awarded the Gold Certification standard for green building design under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system. The buildings are heated and cooled using a geothermal heat pump or ground source heat pump system. The system transfers heat to or from the ground. It uses the earth as a heat source (in the winter) or a heat sink (in the summer). This design takes advantage of the moderate temperatures in the ground to boost efficiency and reduce the operation costs of heating and cooling. The Campus also has office space for the GF&P.

Funding for the Outdoor Campus – West came from State of South Dakota fishing and hunting fees and other private donations. The years of planning, fundraising and public and private support made the entire project completely paid for by the opening day of the Campus.

The Sustainability Committee finds this project a wonderful example of economic, social and environmental sustainability that is easily accessible in Rapid City.

Accepting the award is Chad Tussing, Outdoor Campus – West Director.

